

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/812,993

Examiner

Christopher R. Magee

Applicant(s)

KUWAJIMA, HIDEKI

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the interview on 10/3/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Interview

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Reasons for Allowance

2. Claims 1-26 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This application is for a SHOCK-ABSORBING MEMBER, SHOCK-ABSORBING METHOD OF ELECTRONIC DEVICE EMPLOYING THE MEMBER, AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE ADAPTING THE MEMBER AND THE METHOD.

- **Claim 1** specifies a shock-absorbing member disposed on a main body of equipment, and comprising a shock-absorbing base part and a shock-absorbing flexible part, which requires:

"the shock-absorbing base part has a thickness smaller than that of the shock-absorbing flexible part, and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact."

- **Claim 8** specifies an electronic device having a shock-absorbing member which is composed of a shock-absorbing base part and a shock-absorbing flexible part and is disposed outside a main body of the device, which requires:

"the shock-absorbing base part has a thickness smaller than that of the shock-absorbing flexible part, and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact."

• **Claim 20** specifies a shock-absorbing method of an electronic device including a shock-absorbing member formed by integrally molding a shock-absorbing base part and the shock-absorbing flexible part, which requires:

“the shock-absorbing base part is thinner than that of the shock-absorbing flexible part, and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact.”

The prior art of record fails to teach, show or suggest, by either anticipating or rendering obvious, the invention as set forth in the claims of the instant application. Furthermore, a search made does not detect the combined claimed elements as set forth in the pending claims. Additionally, the reasons for allowance of the claims over the prior art of record is believed to be readily clear, self evident and apparent from the claim language set forth in each of claims 1, 8 and 20, when compared and contrasted with the prior art.

More particularly, the instant invention (as set forth in claims 1, 8 and 20) provides for a shock-absorbing member disposed on a main body of equipment, and comprising a shock-absorbing base part and a shock-absorbing flexible part which requires the shock-absorbing base part having a thickness smaller than that of the shock-absorbing flexible part, and the shock-absorbing base part buckles so as to absorb a shock when receiving an impact. Further, (1) Col. 6, lines 64-67 of Ohnishi does not teach or suggest buckling of shock-absorbing members. The passage discusses how shock-absorbing members will be horizontally deformed if a lid member of the disk drive is mounted by sliding the lid member. The passage further states that this deformation, due to friction, would reduce the shock absorbing effect. (2) Neither Ohnishi nor Yamamura teach or disclose "buckling" of the shock-absorbing members as intended by the

present application. As is shown in Fig. 2 of the present application, the base part 181 buckles by bending angularly. In contrast, the shock absorbing members of Yamamura compress elastically, as shown in Fig. 8C-D of Yamamura. Furthermore, when the bottom shock absorbing members compress, simultaneously, the top members elongate. Thus, even if the shock absorbing members of Ohnishi were combined with Yamamura, they still would not buckle as claimed in the present invention. (3) The two shock absorbing members of Ohnishi shown in Fig. 9 still both absorb shock by elastic deformation. This is discussed on pages 3 and 5 of the specification of the present application. As such, they do not buckle, as claimed in the present application. (4) All the arguments set forth in the response of April 5, 2007 are included as well. Last, none of the cited prior art of record disclose such a shock-absorbing member disposed on a main body of equipment, and comprising a shock-absorbing base part and a shock-absorbing flexible part, as set forth in the manner, function and relationship relative to other claimed structures as prescribed by the independent claims.

Therefore, these features, in combination with other features of claims 1, 8 and 20, are not anticipated by, nor made obvious over, the closest prior art of record of Yamamura et al. (JP 09-204766) and/or Ohnishi et al. (US 6,751,092 B1).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Magee whose telephone number is (571) 272-7592. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8: 00 am-4: 30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrea Wellington can be reached on (571) 272-4483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

December 10, 2007
crm


ANGEL CASTRO
PRIMARY EXAMINER


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